

FIELD MAY BE ABOLISHED.

TALK OF CHARGING \$2 TO ALL PARTS OF RACETRACK.

Bookmakers, looking for "soft money," still anxious to pay tribute to some way—matter will be settled soon—stake events for week-entries.

The attendance at Gravesend on Saturday, while of large proportions, was a disappointment to the Brooklyn Jockey Club. Barring the Saturday, Decoration Day and the Handicap day, the average attendance at this racetrack, as far as the grand stand is concerned, has been so small that P. J. Dwyer has openly criticized the raising of the tariff caused by the severing of financial relations with the bookmakers. As the six-stakes season is now on, the track owners will hold an important meeting in a day or two, at which this matter will be considered at length. It may be said that the question comes to a vote the Gravesend, Jamaica and Aqueduct tracks will stand together, with the other tracks prone to give the case plenty of consideration.

It is a delicate question to handle, yet the track owners feel that under the present high scale of prices the public interest will fall off in the course of time, which means everything. It is an accepted fact now that if the gate receipts had remained as they were the receipts in gross would have greatly exceeded the figures over which the Brooklyn Jockey Club officials are pondering at present. That the field has been the market for more than 60 per cent of the attendance each day cannot be contradicted. There are hundreds of persons who were formerly regular patrons of the big ring at Gravesend, but who have now turned to the field rather than give up \$3. On Saturday, for instance, there were 14,000 persons who paid \$1 to see the races from the grand stand enclosure, and perhaps 6,000 men who craned their necks from the top of the grand stand, under the old scale of prices these figures would probably have been reversed, which would have meant an increased attendance there the gates. But on ordinary days, when there are 8,000 people in the field and 1,500 in the grand stand, the test of the new arrangement makes the desire to go back to old principles particularly strong.

It may be said that the track owners have two schemes in mind, either of which will bring about a desired change. One is to accept some sort of a contribution from the bookmakers, and the other is the fixing of the admission to all parts of the track, barring the clubhouse and paddock, at \$2. The latter plan would be away with the field altogether. It would make a man pay just as much to see the races from the field as from the grand stand, and the small betters would be able to patronize the field as they were permitted to operate under such a new shift in the cards.

The cry from the bookmakers, ever since the prices were raised and the track owners stopped taking fees, is that there is no business in the field compared to the old days. The layers say that there is only a "hard road" to travel. But the bookmakers are making it a hard road to travel.

Then we can get a glimpse at some of the "soft money," which is no longer in evidence. As the prices went up, the all-along betters were willing to pay for the privilege of making book, and even when the prices were raised, they were willing to pay for the privilege of making book. But the bookmakers are making it a hard road to travel.

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KEELER STILL THE LEADER.

HITTING OVER 300 AND HEADS NEW YORK AMERICANS.

Chase Improving Steadily—Devlin the Best Base Stealer of National League Team—Bates First Among the Brooklynians—Records of the Different Players.

Willie Keeler came back out of the West with the lead in batting with lightly attached to him. Keeler has played in every game since the season started. He has a total of 336 for thirty-three games. Bresnahan of the Nationals, has a percentage of .345 for thirty-three games. Chase is still improving with the stick. He advanced nine points in batting and five in fielding last week. Williams jumped up 23 points, going to third place, and hitting with 250. Dougherty fell off slightly and Connor passed him. McGuire got into the 200 class.

The Nationals are on their travels now. The order of the first five men is unchanged. But Strane and McGuire have gained several points. With the hit that Elliott got in Boston, not one of the champions now remains who has a zero in the batting column. All save three of the team are batting over .225. Devlin's record of sixteen stolen bases is the feature of piffing.

The Brooklynians still lead in double plays. The averages follow:

New York Americans.

Player	G	AB	R	H	PO	A	E	P
Keeler	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
Chase	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
Williams	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
Dougherty	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
Connor	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
McGuire	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
Strane	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
Elliott	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
Bates	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
Devlin	30	148	27	48	386	67	4	1.089
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